CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a parish council meeting of Corfe Castle Parish Council held on Monday 13th July 2026 in the village hall. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Cllr **Blinkhorn**, Cllr **Clarke** (Vice-Chairman), Cllr **Dru Drury** (Chairman), Cllr **Humphries**, Cllr **Kirkwood**, Cllr **Lermit**, Cllr **Rowell** & Cllr **Spicer-Short**

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah **Forwood** (Clerk), James **Gould** (National Trust) & Cllr **Wilson** (Dorset Council)

ABSENT:

Cllr **Marshallsay**, Cllr **Roberts** & Cllr **Sumbler**

PUBLIC SESSION

No members of public were present.

0426-29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT(LGA) 1972 S85 (1))

Apologies have been received from Cllr Ros Marshallsay, Cllr Roberts and Cllr Sumbler which were accepted by all. Cllr Dru Drury chaired the rest of the meeting.

0426-30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declaration was made. NB this does not preclude any later declarations.

0426-31 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the full council meeting held on Monday 8th June 2026 were approved and signed as a correct record the meeting. (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(1)

Proposed Cllr Rowell Seconded Cllr Clarke

RESOLVED – The minutes from the full council meeting held on Monday 8th June 2026 were approved and signed as a correct record the meeting.

0426-32 DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A verbal report was given at the meeting. See Appendix A for full details.

0426-33 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

After nine years working at Corfe Castle the Operations Manager is moving to another role within the National Trust.

The conservation project at Corfe Castle is coming to an end, it is two weeks away from being completed.

Due to the weather visitor numbers at Corfe Castle have been slow, but they are starting to pick up. The food festival that took place over the weekend was successful.

The Chair thanked the National Trust Operations Manager for all their help and support they have given Corfe Castle Parish Council.

0426-34 CLERKS REPORT TO INCLUDE:

a Financial Matters

See Appendix C for full details.

The following bank balance was noted:

Bank Balance as of 30th June 2026

00289201 – Lloyds	£25,016.57	00162368 – Lloyds	£25,704.14
80031534 – Redwood	£69,629.44	Equals Money	£200.00
Total	£94,646.01		

1. Expenditure and Income

Proposed Cllr Humphries Seconded Cllr Lermit

RESOLVED/ACTION: All payments as listed within the Clerks report and supporting paper was approved with a combined total of **£6,116.62** including VAT. The Income of £1514.97 was noted. Clerk to process payments.

2. Bank Reconciliation
A copy of the June Bank Reconciliation print out from Scribe was submitted during the meeting.
RESOLVED – To approve the June Scribe Bank Reconciliation and the Chairman to sign.

b **Parish Safety Report**

1 The playground safety report was submitted before the meeting. It was noted the Caretaker will work through the minor works required.
Swing Set Rust: The rust on the swing set was raised at the meeting, it was agreed that a second opinion should be sought to confirm if the swing set can be repaired or replaced.
ACTION: Clerk to arrange a second opinion on the swing set rust and arrange a replace or repair

Spring Sheep: It was agreed if the spring sheep can be repaired to go ahead with this or replace if repair was not possible.
ACTION: Clerk to arrange with the Caretaker for the spring sheep to be repaired.

2 Defibrillator Monthly Safety Reports were submitted before the meeting this was noted.

d **Caretakers Report**
Works undertaken: A list of works the caretaker has undertaken this month was submitted. This was noted.

f. **Action Log**

1. A copy of the action log was at the end of the Clerks report.

0426-35 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

a **Planning Working Group – Planning Applications**
The planning working group submitted a written report before the meeting detailing applications with recommendations.

1 **Application No:** P/PABA/2026/03472
Location: Jenks Farm, Knitson To Ailwood, Ailwood, Corfe Castle, BH20 5JA
Proposal: Extension of an existing agricultural barn structure
Comments Due: 30th June 2026
Planning working Group Comment No objection, based on the information provided in the application, the limited size of the barn extension and the position of the building in the corner of a field effectively screened on two sides.

2. **Application No:** Planning Appeal
Location: Cromwell Cottage, Sandy Hill Lane, Corfe Castle, BH20 5ED
Proposal: Erect single-storey summer house and porch
Comments Due: 23rd July 2026
Planning working Group Comment Support the application, and would not support withdrawing the "no objection" comment.

0426-36 CORRESPONSENCE

a Corfe Castle Community Library visit for Councillors – 29.06.26
To note correspondence was received in relation to Councillors visiting the Corfe Castle Library.

b Housing Needs Survey – Corfe Castle and Harmans Cross – 02.07.26
The Chairman encouraged all Councillors to complete the online form.

c Corfe Castle Village Hall, Eastern Promise Meal – email 02.07.26
A meal is taking place on Saturday 1st August in the evening, which will also be the official opening of the new kitchen.

d Camp Bestival – email 02.07.26
It was noted that there was no change to the traffic plan for Camp Bestival. The Corfe Castle Councillors will monitor the traffic situation and if it causes disruption a report will be sent to highways highlighting the plan they have does not work.

e Land owner of West Street
The Chair deferred this agenda item until the CCCLT arrive at the meeting.

No further correspondence considered urgent has been received since the publication of the agenda.

0426-37 FORTH COMING MEETINGS

Camp Bestival – Online Teams Meeting 06.07.26

The Clerk will be attending the Community Conversations – 17.07.26

0426-38 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND COUNCILLORS

a. It was noted that Cllr Sumbler attended the PTAG meeting and provided a report for the Parish Council meeting.

0426-39 DAPTC - REGISTER OF INTEREST

The Chair noted the Register of Interests which is required for all Councillors to complete before the 17th July. An email has been circulated by the Clerk from the DAPTC with all the relevant information for Councillors to complete.

0426-40 PRE-SUBMISSION NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR SWANAGE – REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION

Cllr Clarke has drafted a response for the pre-submission neighbourhood plan for Swanage noting that Corfe Castle Parish Council welcome the plan but believe there is further scope for working together on issues such as tourism and employment.

RESOLVED/ACTION Clerk to send Cllr Clarkes report to Swanage Town Council and note that Corfe Castle and Swanage Town Council take a joined up approach.

0426-41 SAVE OUR SERVICE – COAST AND RESCUE SERVICE

RESOLVED/ACTION Clerk to email the Local MP highlighting Corfe Castle Parish Council's support to Save the Coast and Rescue Service.

0426-42 MOU CCPC AND PURBECK YOUTH & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Parish Council confirmed its support and recognition of the value of the Youth Club provision**.**
RESOLVED It was resolved that the Memorandum of Understanding between CCPC and Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation be approved.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke Seconded: Cllr Blinkhorn

0426-43 THANKS TO CRAZY4CORFE

The Parish Council thanked Crazy4Corfe for all the support they have given the village over the last 11 years.

Proposed: Cllr Kirkwood Seconded: Cllr Humphries

0426-44 CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Cllr Clarke requested that the discussion remain an open session rather than confidential. The Parish Council does not want anyone in the community to feel there is a private level of conversation between the CCCLT and Corfe Castle Parish Council. Once a planning application is submitted, the Parish Council will consider the CCCLT in the same way as any other developer.

The CCCLT noted that, in an open session, they may be unable to answer questions that are currently commercially or project-sensitive. In a closed session, they would be able to respond as openly and clearly as possible, within commercial constraints.

The discussion began in open session. An update was provided on the project location, the heads of terms, and the outline of the deal now moving into the contract stage. The number of homes will depend on the results of the Housing Needs Survey being carried out by Dorset Council.

West Street 2: CCCLT and Aster have agreed that this project is now closed. There is no available public funding and no budget to progress the scheme to planning permission. Tabbit's Hill Lane is currently the only option under consideration.

The planning application is expected to be ready for submission early next year.

A question was raised about why existing empty homes cannot be used instead of building new ones. It was explained that this relates to housing quality rather than quantity. When older properties reach a point where they cannot be economically upgraded to modern standards, they are sold on. The funds from these sales are then reinvested into building new homes with significantly higher environmental efficiency and better suitability for long-term use.

0426-45 DORSET COUNCIL TRO

RESOLVED: To move to a Part 2 Confidential session, due to the nature of the business to be discussed under s.1(2) of the 1960 Act, the press and public were excluded for the remainder of the meeting. Noting Cllr Wilson was invited to remain.

A discussion took place in relation to the Dorset Council TRO.

0426-46 CLERKS PROBATIONARY PERIOD REVIEW

RESOLVED: To move to Part 2 Confidential session, due to the nature of the business to be discussed under s.1(2) of the 1960 Act, the press and public are to be excluded for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillors confirmed they were satisfied with the Clerk's performance and agreed that the Clerk be appointed to a permanent position.

The meeting ended at 20:38 hours

Appendix A

Local Matters

Locally June was dominated by the consultation opened to determine the future of two Purbeck, Church of England Primary schools - St Georges in Langton Matravers and St Marks in Swanage. Both are within the same Multi-Academy Trust - Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP) - who operate a number of schools across Dorset. After much pressure from the parents of St Georges, supported by Langton Matravers Parish Council, myself and Lloyd Hatton MP, the consultation was stopped and CLP agreed not to make any structural changes to either school for the following two academic years. A reprieve rather than a total victory and the impact of falling pupil numbers, a local and national trend, is still a threat to their future.

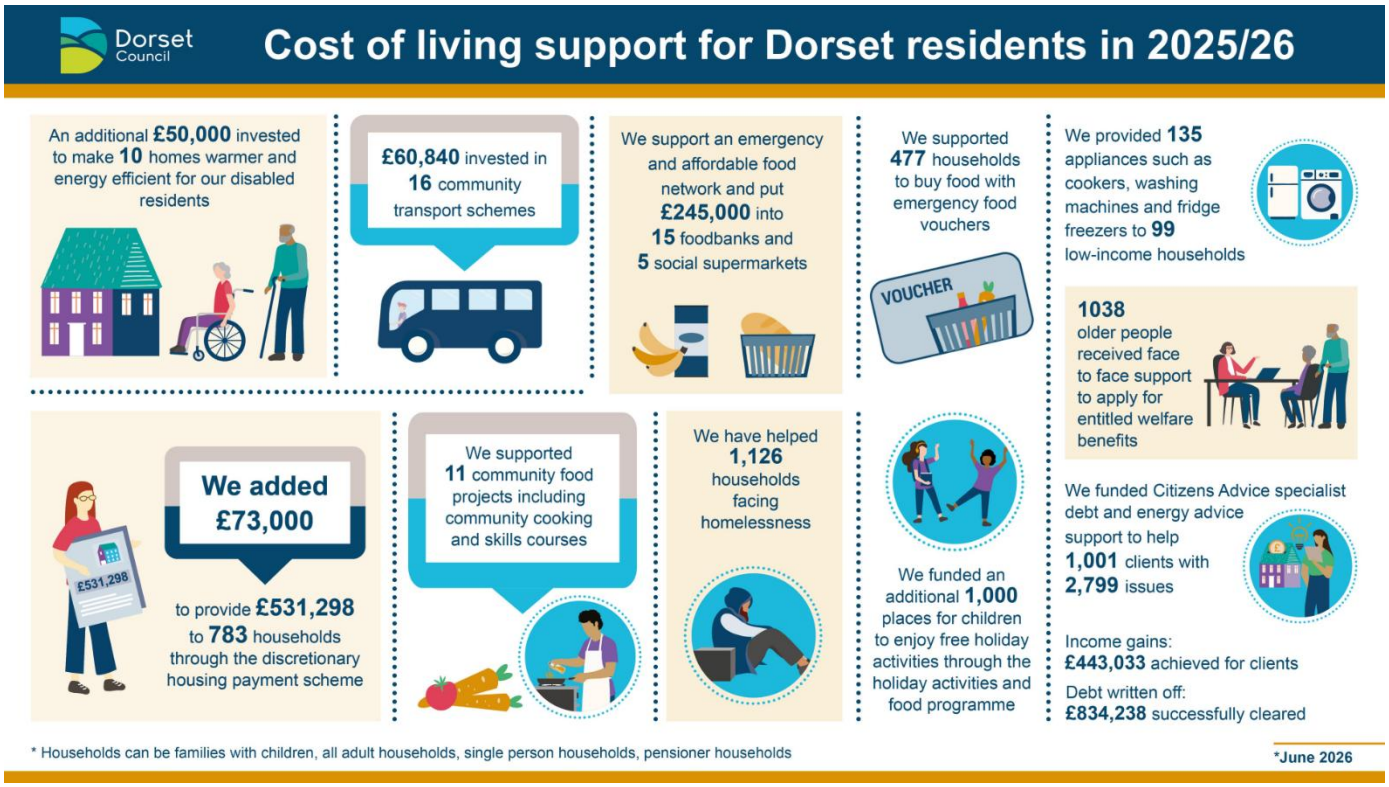
Elsewhere, I have been involved in a number of matters in relation to Community Land Trust (CLT) developments across Purbeck and continue to offer a bridge between CLT, Dorset Council (including planning) and residents. At Dorset Council I have also been continuing to advocate for the retention of the 'Primary Residence Policy' in the future Dorset Local Plan and ensuring that it is enforced whilst the Purbeck Local Plan is still in Operation.

On 17th July Dorset Council will be holding the first of two 'Community Conversations' for Purbeck. The purpose of these discussions is to agree how Dorset Council, Town/Parish Councils, local services organisations (including the NHS) and the voluntary sector can better work together. Details for the first event are attached. All invited!

The saga of the Sandbanks Ferry continues. On 1st July the Ferry adopted an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system with on-line only payments. Residents have raised concerns regarding an expiry now placed on existing paper tickets and I raised concerns with the Ferry Company regarding the accessibility of relying on on-line payments for residents/visitors who are not digitally-enabled. I received assurances from the Ferry Company that support is available at the Ferry Company offices should anyone require it.

Dorset Council underspent its budget for 2025/26 by £169,000, from a total budget of £417 million. This is the first time since the Council was formed in 2019 that spend for the year has come in on budget. The improved position has been achieved through tighter financial controls, strong leadership and the hard work of officers across the organisation. It follows a year of focussed action to address spending pressures and strengthen how budgets are managed. This is a remarkable achievement given the headwinds presented by the central Government funding formula and continued spend pressures in Adults' and Children's services. For residents, this means the council is now on a firmer footing to protect the everyday services people rely on – including care for vulnerable residents, maintaining roads, waste collection and local facilities

The council has invested £500,000 into the Cost of Living Support Grant in 2025/26 in addition to funding received from government through the Household Support Fund, supporting people facing rising costs with housing, food and energy and money advice. It will now continue to invest £500,000 every year until at least 2029 to make sure help is there for those who need it most.



Continuing on the theme of housing, there are currently two local consultations open: the first a Housing Needs Survey for Corfe Castle and Worth Matravers, which you will be very familiar with, and second, the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan. Details and links to the relevant document are below:

Swanage Neighbourhood Plan - Swanage Neighbourhood Plan

Also of potential local interest, the Capital Leverage fund is open for applications from community-based projects for up to 20% of a capital project. I am happy to support any willing local applicants!

Capital Leverage Fund - Dorset Council

Lastly, on a personal note, my Cabinet role at Dorset Council has been expanded to include Customer Services (including libraries) as well as the council's transformation agenda and workforce. My focus is to bring more of our services into a single 'front door' for residents and drive an improved, consistent customer service experience. Plenty more on this to come, I am sure....

Appendix C

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Bank	Tender
30.06.2026	£1,709.39	£341.87	£2,051.26	Grass Cutting	Lowther	Lloyds	ONLINE
30.06.2026	£1,114.51	£0.00	£1,114.51	Salary	Staff, HMRC, Nest	Lloyds	ONLINE
30.06.2026	£730.74	£0.00	£730.74	Caretaker Hours	Tim Lee	Lloyds	ONLINE
30.06.2026	£586.62	£117.32	£703.94	Cleaning	J D Facilities	Lloyds	ONLINE
30.06.2026	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Donation	Cultural Purbeck	Lloyds	ONLINE
30.06.2026	£320.00	£64.00	£384.00	Playground Equipment	Online Playground	Lloyds	ONLINE
30.06.2026	£240.00	£0.00	£240.00	Grave Digging	Tim Stockley	Lloyds	ONLINE
30.06.2026	£47.95	£2.40	£50.35	Toilets - Electricity	E-On	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
30.06.2026	£88.00	£0.00	£88.00	Gods Acre	Dorset Council	Lloyds	ONLINE
30.06.2026	£14.00	£0.00	£14.00	NNDR	Dorset Council	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
	£5,591.03	**£525.59**	**£6,116.62**				